

I still remember when JULIAN asked me to accompany him when he went to Chairman Hal Rogers to describe the problem and to ask for funding for the roll-out teams. That the chairman immediately agreed to include the funding for this critical program in the conference report is indicative of the respect with which JULIAN was held. I don't think JULIAN ever put out a press release about obtaining this important funding, but I know it has had a positive impact in helping us address one of the problems with our troubled police force.

This is just one example of JULIAN's hard work and commitment to his community, and his ability to produce results based on his stature and respect in the House. Whether it was fighting for emergency funding for Los Angeles after the riot in 1992 and the Northridge earthquake in 1994, or advocating on behalf of the Los Angeles public transportation system, JULIAN DIXON was a devoted and effective legislator.

While JULIAN DIXON will undoubtedly be remembered for years to come as an outstanding legislator, I will remember him as a cherished friend and trusted mentor. Whether providing guidance on the rules and procedures of the House, Los Angeles politics, or committee assignments, his advice was always welcome and sound.

In this time of extreme partisanship and legislative gridlock, it is my hope that we can all learn from the example of our friend and colleague, JULIAN DIXON.

While it is clear that JULIAN will be dearly missed, his hard work and dedication, dignity, and bipartisan manner will serve as an enduring model to all.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT SMITH

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to bring to the attention of the House an article from *The Lexington Chronicle*, about Army Master Sergeant Robert Smith, which gives an account of his impressive military record. Sergeant Smith is truly a great American

[From the Lexington County Living,
November 9, 2000]

A YOUNG WARRIOR'S TALE

ROBERT SMITH ENLISTED IN THE ARMY AT THE
AGE OF 14

(By Robert Smith and Mike Rowell)

Early in 1950, the North Koreans invaded South Korea. I had just joined the 511th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky, in April. So I volunteered for duty in the Korea War.

I arrived in Korea in early September, 1950 and was assigned to the intelligence and reconnaissance platoon of the 7th Infantry Division. Most of the time, we just went up the mountains and down the valleys of Korea. I was wounded for the first time while on patrol near Souwan.

Like many boys who grew up during World War II, my dream was to be a soldier. I was especially interested in the paratroopers and Darby's Rangers. I dreamed that the military was the life for me.

Just three months after my fourteenth birthday, I decided start living my lifelong

dream. I went and enlisted in the U.S. Army. I lied and gave my age as 17, which required parental consent.

The recruiter said that he would drive me to my house for my mother's signature. However, when we arrived at the end of the twisting road with my house still a mile hike up the mountain side, he stopped the car.

He said, "You go get your mother to sign here."

I had counted on that! My cousin signed it. I was in the Army now.

My basic training was at Camp Pickett, Va. During boot camp, I did something wrong and my platoon sergeant called me down and said, "You little SOB—I know you're not old enough to be in the Army. If I thought you could make a living on the outside, I would have your ass kicked out."

After basic training, I volunteered for the Airborne and completed jump school in March of 1949—it was one day after my fifteenth birthday. At this time the 11th Airborne Division was coming stateside from Japan, and the 82nd Airborne was at full strength. So I was assigned to Germany and flew security on aircraft involved in the Berlin Airlift.

Then came Korea. Just before New Year's Day 1951, the 2nd Airborne Ranger Company was assigned to my division. I volunteered and was assigned to this illustrious Ranger company.

Not long after that, I was wounded a second time and sent to a hospital in Japan. After recovery, I was returned to Korea for a time. But shortly thereafter I was rotated back to the United States at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Incidentally, I bumped into my old basic-training drill sergeant—the one who had threatened to kick me out of the Army. I don't know what he had done, but he had been busted from master sergeant to private first class. My rank was sergeant first class. Revenge is a dish best served cold!

In November 1952, I was assigned to the 32nd Infantry in my old division after I re-volunteered for duty in Korea. We saw action at Old Baldy, Pork Chop Hill, White Horse, and Jane Russell, names that will never be forgotten. I was assigned as a forward observer with the Ethiopian Battalion. I was wounded again during the final battle of Pork Chop Hill.

After the Korean War, I had to adjust to the peacetime Army. During this period, the Army decided to change the dress uniform from Khaki to green. The orders went out for a group of soldier to model the 'new look.'

The requirements were simple. You had to be at least six feet tall and a combat veteran. I was one of the four men, out of 258 from the 3rd Army who were selected. During the next three and a half years, I traveled throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, modeling the new uniform. What a change from Korea!

One morning in 1964, I was at the Pentagon at the enlisted branch records department. I signed in, stated my reason for being there, and sat down to wait my turn. A sharp looking sergeant picked up the sign-in sheet, left the room. When he returned he announced,

"There are 28 noncoms in here trying to get out of going to Vietnam. There is only one trying to go there. Sgt. Smith, come with me."

I had my Vietnam assignment within thirty minutes. I went back overseas as an advisor. I was wounded for the fourth time during that tour.

My second Vietnam tour was with the 11th Airborne Cavalry's Long Range Patrol. We were involved in typical Vietnam operations—patrol, search and destroy. On one of those patrols I was wounded for the fifth time.

I retired on December 30, 1969. There was a big ceremony for those who were retiring. I was supposed to be awarded my fifth Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

When the major general came to me he said, "Sergeant, how old are you? You look like you should be coming in, not going out."

Instead of pinning my medals on, he handed them to me and said, "You have more medals than I do. Put them on wherever you can!"

Robert "Smitty" Smith earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart at age 16. He earned the Silver Star, a second Bronze Star for heroism and two Purple Hearts by age 17, all while serving in Korea.

He also received the U.S. Navy Commendation Medal for leading a squad that assisted the return of a U.S. Marine patrol that had been surrounded by an enemy force.

During his two tours in Vietnam, he received two Purple Hearts, another Combat Infantryman Badge, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, his third Bronze Star for Valor, the Air Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. He proudly wore a Master Parachutists Badge.

Smitty and his wife Ann live in Gilbert, South Carolina. They have three sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren. All three sons served in the Airborne infantry. One son, an underage veteran who joined the Army at age 15, was killed in an automobile accident in 1993.

Sgt. Robert Smith, Ret. is a proud member of the Veterans of Underage Military Service (VUMS). This organization is open to veterans of the Army, Navy, Marines Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marines.

VUMS is actively seeking eligible members. The National Commander is Edward E. Gilley, 4011 Tiger Point Blvd., Gulf Breeze, Florida, 32561-3515. He can be reached at 888-653-8867, FAX at 850-934-1315, or you can e-mail him at ed-bess-gulfbreeze@att.net.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to former Rep. Henry Gonzalez, who passed away on Tuesday, December 5th, at the age of 84.

Throughout his career, Henry Gonzalez was an unwavering champion for equal justice and civil rights and a powerful voice for the disenfranchised. Henry first entered public life in 1953, when he was elected to the San Antonio City Council. The son of Mexican immigrants, he came along when Texas was a black and white society and Hispanics were generally not considered to be a minority group. Nevertheless, he spoke forcefully against segregation of public facilities and helped to shepherd passage of desegregation ordinances. Later, after he became the first Mexican-American to serve in the Texas State Senate, he attracted national attention for successfully filibustering several racial segregation bills that were aimed at circumventing the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case.

In 1961, Henry Gonzalez again broke new ground by being elected the first Hispanic Representative from Texas. Ultimately, he served 19 terms, longer than any other Hispanic Member of Congress. More importantly, he never lost touch with his constituents and his community during his tenure in Congress. He demanded that issues affecting the people of San Antonio receive his personal attention.

Throughout his time in Congress, Henry Gonzalez served on the Committee of Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs. There, he focused his legislative efforts on making credit more accessible to ordinary people, improving public housing, and helping many Americans to become homeowners. Early in his congressional career, he worked for the passage of the landmark Housing Act of 1964. Later, when he became Chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development in 1981, he was instrumental in getting approval for a program to assist families who faced foreclosure on their homes. He also strongly defended public housing programs when the Reagan Administration proposed to cut them sharply.

In 1989, he became Chairman of the full Banking Committee. His first urgent order of business was to deal with the collapse of the savings and loan industry, a crisis he had predicted throughout the 1980's. As he began working to craft a solution, it became apparent to him that any bailout, although necessary for the nation's banking system, would be extremely unfair to low and moderate income Americans. He realized that they would derive little or no benefit from the bailout even though they had to share in the burden of fashioning a remedy for the excesses and poor decisions of savings and loan managers in the previous decade. The need to make credit more available to low income Americans and to depressed communities laid the groundwork for later legislative efforts and culminated in the enactment of the Community Reinvestment Act.

Overall, the Banking Committee under Henry's leadership held more than 500 hearings and obtained enactment of 71 bills. Among the other major bills that the Committee produced included restructuring the federal deposit insurance system to provide depositors a greater guarantee for their savings, making more credit available to small business, reauthorizing federal housing laws, and strengthening the laws pertaining to financial crimes.

I want to especially thank Representative MARTIN FROST for leading a special order in honor of Henry Gonzalez. Henry Gonzalez was a giant and true champion of Texas, and it is fitting for a Texas Member who currently serves in the House leadership to lead this tribute. Henry was not just a giant in Texas politics but also a mentor to all of us in the Texas delegation. I am certainly proud to have had an opportunity to serve with him and learn from his example. The people of Texas and his constituents in San Antonio will miss him, and his colleagues here in the Congress will fondly remember his kindness, friendship, and devotion to public service.

FOR CLINTON'S LAST ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Robert S. McNamara, who served as defense secretary under President John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson for his editorial that was published in the December 12, 2000 edition of the New York Times. Mr. McNamara is calling on President Clinton to sign a treaty, finalized in Rome in 1998, that would create a permanent International Criminal Court. Senator JESSE HELMS has promised to block any attempt to ratify the pact. As Mr. McNamara correctly points out, Senator HELMS' justification for not ratifying the treaty are unfounded. The tribunal of 18 world jurists would only have jurisdiction to charge those who commit specific crimes that outrage the international community as a whole, and each nation would retain the right to try its own nationals in a fair trial under its own laws. More than 25 nations have ratified the agreement, but we must have 60 nations to ratify before the court can begin trying cases. Given there is an urgent need to deter future atrocities, I urge President Clinton to sign the International Criminal Court agreement with all deliberate speed, and call on Senator JESSE HELMS, in the spirit of justice, freedom, and humanity, not to block the agreement. To do so would be a travesty of justice.

[From the New York Times, Dec. 12, 2000]

FOR CLINTON'S LAST ACT

(By Robert S. McNamara and Benjamin B. Ferencz)

With the stroke of a pen, President Bill Clinton has a last chance to safeguard humankind from genocide, crimes against humanity and the ravages of war itself. He must simply sign a treaty, finalized in Rome in 1998, to create a permanent International Criminal Court.

If he signs the treaty before Dec. 31, the government does not have to ratify the treaty at this time. After that date, any country has to both ratify and sign the treaty to become a member. This is no small consideration, since Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has promised to block any attempt to ratify the pact.

Why does Mr. Helms object to a permanent international criminal court? He and others are worried that an unchecked international court could infringe on basic American constitutional rights for fair trials. For instance, they want ironclad guarantees that the court would never try American soldiers. Pentagon officials fear that Americans might be falsely accused of crimes, thus inhibiting our humanitarian military missions.

These worries are unfounded. The tribunal of 18 world jurists only have jurisdiction to charge those who commit specific crimes that outrage the international community as a whole. Under the treaty, no one can be convicted without clear proof of intent to commit the illegal act. The prosecutor is subject to judicial and budgetary controls that promise both competence and objectivity.

And most important, each nation retains the primary right to try its own nationals in a fair trial under its own laws. There are some crimes, like sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, that the treaty covers, which are

not specifically enunciated in our own country's military laws and manuals. Robinson O. Everett, a former chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, has recommended incorporating these crimes into our federal laws, assuring that any American military personnel charged with a crime could be tried by American courts.

Genocide is universally condemned but there is no universal court competent to try all perpetrators. The Nuremberg war crimes trials, inspired by the United States and affirmed by the United Nations, implied that "never again" would crimes against humanity be allowed to go unpunished.

Today, we have special courts created by the United Nations Security Council that have very limited and retroactive jurisdiction. For instance, war crimes tribunals are now coping with past atrocities in Yugoslavia and Rwanda. But these tribunals are hardly adequate to deter international crimes wherever they occur.

The president must help deter future atrocities. At the United Nations and elsewhere, he and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright have repeatedly called for an international court to carry forward the lessons of Nuremberg. Now, he has a chance to take action. More than 100 nations, including all our NATO allies, have already signed. Some 25 nations have ratified; others are well on the way. The court cannot begin trying cases until at least 60 nations have ratified.

If President Clinton fails to sign the treaty, he will weaken our credibility and moral standing in the world. We will look like a bully who wants to be above the law. If he signs, however, he will reaffirm America's inspiring role as leader of the free world in its search for peace and justice.

IMPROVING AMERICA'S VOTING SYSTEMS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 15, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to join my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Virginia, TOM DAVIS, and the gentleman from Rhode Island, PATRICK KENNEDY, in introducing legislation to improve our Nation's voting systems.

Our message today is simple: While we will never have a perfect system for electing our leaders, we must always seek improvements to that system so the will of the American people always prevails. Improving our voting systems will not be a simple task. But we will achieve our goal in our nation's best traditions of open debate and bipartisan consensus. One encouraging development from this year's Presidential election, is that it has prompted an important debate, about the problems with our various voting systems across the country and how we must work together to improve them. We believe one way to improve the system is by creating a strong, bipartisan council, to be known as the "Commission on Electoral Administration." The Commission would be charged with reviewing how we conduct our elections across the country, and issuing recommendations to make sure that the difficulties experienced by the voters of Florida do not occur again.

The Commission would be funded with \$100 million. The money would be dispersed as voluntary matching grants, to states and local